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David Eric Symon (1920–2011)

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Introduction

This is a review of the taxonomic work with which David Symon was associated during his working life at the Waite Institute, University of Adelaide (1950–1985) and, following his retirement from there, as an Honorary Research Associate of the State Herbarium of South Australia (1985–2011). It is a means of documenting his scientific publications and his plant collections held by the State Herbarium, and also a means of recording some of his other activities involving plants and fledgling societies. Further background to David can be found in articles produced on the Waite Arboretum and Herbarium (Gardner 1990), on the occasion of the awarding of his D.Sc. (Barker 1997), the awarding of life membership to the Australian Systematic Botany Society (Barker 2000) and at the time of his death (Anon. 2012, Barker 2012a, Barker 2012b, Gardner 2012).

David came to Australia at an early age in 1922 and until 1935, when they moved to Adelaide, his family farmed at Pyap, near Loxton (Symon 1991). Following early employment at Lasscock's nursery and with the South Australian Railways, David was able to complete the Roseworthy Agriculture diploma with distinction and then continue on to an Honours Agricultural Science degree, graduating in 1951. From then on his working life was entirely within the Agronomy Department of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute (1924–1991)[1], firstly as Lecturer in Agronomy, followed by his appointment in 1956 as the Systematic Botanist and then in 1962 as Senior Lecturer in Botany. By the time of his retirement in 1985 he had achieved the status of Reader in the Department. During this time David was responsible for the Herbarium (ADW) and the Arboretum as well as for lecturing to undergraduate Agricultural Science students. Part of his course involved a 3–5 day bus trip for third year students to various agricultural areas of the State.

David did not receive formal training in the practices of taxonomy. However his association with his predecessors at the Waite Institute, Constance Eardley and Enid Robertson, and with the newly-arrived (1955) and European-trained Hansjoerg Eichler at the State Herbarium of South Australia (AD), his need to run the newly invigorated herbarium at the Waite, his giving of the lectures to Agricultural Science students, the running of the Arboretum and study leave at the herbarium in Kew Gardens in 1963 would all have contributed to his development in this area. He was also exposed to the thoughts of other Australian botanists through his membership of committees formed to establish a new *Flora of Australia* (see below). On the retirement of Miss Eardley from the Botany Department in 1971, David gave the traditional taxonomy lectures to second-year Botany students for the next couple of years, before the appointment of David Christophel; these lectures were very well received by the students.

David retired from the Waite at the end of 1985 and from that time worked in retirement at the State Herbarium of South Australia, whilst still retaining close contact with the Arboretum and his part-time successor there, Jennifer Gardner. Both institutions took up most of the working week although he usually found some time to engage in non-botanical activities for at least part of one day of the week.

Main plant interests

The list is long and you really only need to peruse his publications to see that David had a broad interest and knowledge of the "higher" plants, and not just of their taxonomy, but of how they related to the world around them. Nor did he confine his interests to Australian plants, but through his work in the Agronomy Department and the Arboretum he also encompassed exotic plants, particularly trees, grasses and weeds.

Solanaceae

He was probably best known for his work in the Australian and New Guinea Solanaceae and his accounts for both regions have provided a base line study from which further work has been extended. It is not clear just when he began his studies in the family, but it was probably in the early 1960s and with all of its plants of economic importance it seems an obvious one for an employee in an agronomy department. In the early days of his studies of *Solanum*, while still employed at the Waite and with limited collections to examine, he was in

[1] The Waite Agricultural Research Institute was established in 1924 following a bequest to the University of Adelaide by Peter Waite. It was generally known by that name until 1991, when it and Roseworthy Agricultural College were amalgamated to become part of the University of Adelaide's new Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. Now, the Waite campus is home to the Waite Research Institute, with the Waite Arboretum still occupying the same land adjacent to the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct.

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the habit of growing plants in pots from seed, either in the Waite gardens or in his own home garden, and making observations on flowers and fruits which had, until that time, been unknown. These plants would then be made into herbarium specimens. In 1963 he spent his study leave working in the herbarium at Kew Gardens and then in 1970 his study leave was spent at the University of Birmingham with Professor J.G. Hawkes, the noted crop plant geneticist specialising in potatoes, and Richard Lester, chemotaxonomist and Solanaceae expert (see *International Solanaceae Conferences*, below).

His interest in *Solanum* predated the visit of Russian botanists to collect seed of kangaroo apples in 1968; kangaroo apples had previously been identified as a superior source of the alkaloid solasodine, and the Russians did establish a short-lived industry, but Australian attempts were less successful. Although he appears never to have published it, David did give a paper to the ANZAAS conference in Perth in 1973 on the domestication of *Solanum laciniatum* and he retained a strong interest in the kangaroo apples, culminating in his own account of their taxonomy and history prepared in time for the International Solanaceae Conference he hosted in Adelaide in September 1994 (Symon 1994). He provided identifications of Solanum for chemist David Collins of Monash University in the 1970s and these were part of multiple authored papers on a survey of *Solanum* for potentially useful sources of solasodine (Bradley et al. 1978, Bradley et al. 1979). This all arose out of the ill-fated attempt to establish a steroid pharmaceutical industry in South Australia in 1976; David's role in this enterprise was as provider of seed and seedlings for planting (Symon 1994), as well as botanical expert in the genus. He also participated in a 5 week field trip to remote areas of Western Australia and the Northern Territory with David Collins and Frank Eastwood of Monash University in May–June 1975. The purpose of this trip[2] was to collect specimens of those *Solanum* species not yet represented in the alkaloid survey, but it also allowed David to see a number of new species. David remained interested in *Solanum* in general up until his death and was supplying Dr Kerry Wilkinson of the Waite with kangaroo apple fruits for analysis (see below).

David's *magnum opus* on Australian *Solanum* species was published in 1981, preceded, in the same year, by an account of the naturalised species of Solanaceae in Australia. These publications were crucial for the first familial treatment published the next year in the new *Flora of Australia* series (Purdie et al., 1982). Rosemary Purdie wrote most of the text, based on the work of David and two ABRS-funded graduates under his supervision, Laurie Haegi (*Datura*) and Philippa Horton (*Nicotiana*).

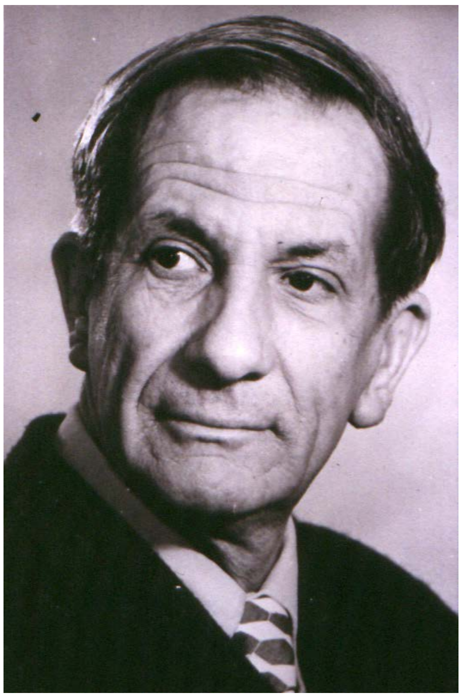


Fig. 1. David E. Symon in 1971. — Photo: Symon family.

In the year of his retirement David produced an account of the Solanaceae of New Guinea (Symon 1985). This followed on from two field trips to that country, one in 1977, when he used his study leave from the University of Adelaide to fund a trip in May–June, and used the Lae Herbarium as a base. He returned there again in May–June 1984, this time having received a grant from the Waite Agricultural Research Institute research fund.

David always felt that his account of the Australian *Solanum* species, particularly those from northern and eastern Australia, was provisional, based as it was on limited collections and field observations, and he was happy to see that his own work had promoted much further work in the genus. He continued to describe occasional species as they came to his attention (Symon & Swarbrick 1986, 1995, 2000, Brennan et al. 2006) and his opinion was widely sought. The dioecious Australian Solanums were of particular interest leading to additional and ongoing research by scientists from Australia and from overseas (Symon 1970, Anderson & Symon 1989, Martine & Anderson 2007, Martine et al., 2009, Barrett 2013) and it is safe to say that the taxonomy of this group is still in need of clarification. Tony Bean's series of papers predominantly on the north-eastern species (Bean 2001, 2002, 2004, 2010 & 2011, Bean & Albrecht 2008) and now the western species (Bean 2013), has added considerably to David's basic framework with the recognition of almost 60 new species, albeit with a rather narrower species concept than that of David, and a rearrangement of the species groupings. The Lucid key for Australian Solanaceae (Barker 2010), for which David provided input, projected these differing views, but it is quite clear that there is still plenty to do in the genus

[2] David Collins has put together an account of this trip, funded by a grant from the Rural Credits Development Fund of the Reserve Bank of Australia, based on the trip diary kept at the time. It contains maps and images as well as an informative text and should there be questions concerning collecting localities it would be worth consulting (Collins 2013).

within Australia. A further area of interest for David was the taxonomy and ecology of the group surrounding the bush tomato (*Solanum centrale*) as it was investigated further for commercial purposes (Collins 2002, Dennett 2006, both unpublished theses; Waycott et al. 2011); David provided advice to the authors of the two theses.

The same can be said of *Nicotiana*, a genus with which David remained biogeographically fascinated. He published some new species (Symon 1984, Clarkson & Symon 1991, Symon & Kenneally 1994, Symon 1998), altered the status of one (Symon & Lepschi 2007) and left us with at least one undescribed species and the possible resurrection of a name from the past. Whenever a new analysis was published, he could be found trying to relate his own knowledge of the genus to the results which had been published. He was further interested in the group because of its cultural significance for many indigenous peoples (Symon 2005) — a statement that was also true for the other members of the Solanaceae of cultural significance, such as *Duboisia*, *Datura* and *Brugmansia*.

The rest of the family in Australia consists largely of introduced genera, which David covered in his 1981 publication, and the Australian tribe Anthocercideae. While he had an interest in the latter group it was the subject of Laurie Haegi's Ph.D. thesis and he regarded the taxonomy of that group as "belonging" to Laurie and did not usually venture into the area except for identification and cultural interests. He would be very happy to know that Laurie is picking up on this group again in retirement. Their assertion that *Datura* was a new world genus (Symon & Haegi 1991) was somewhat controversial when it was first published although it now seems to have achieved general acceptance. It is a pity that it has only just been noticed now, but David would have been amused to see that this particular paper is still receiving mention and the context. It was referred to in a challenge to a suggestion by the director of Sotheby's Institute that the hallucinogenic *Datura stramonium* is represented in Botticelli's c. 1485 painting entitled *Venus and Mars* (Bellingham 2010). In disputing this identification art historian researcher, Hasan Niyazi (2010), said

> The Thorn apple, *Datura stramonium* did not exist in Italy in Botticelli's Time. Symon and Haegi performed the definitive research on this.

David would have been even more amused and intrigued that Niyazi was convinced that it was not Datura that was depicted but a squirting cucumber!

It is not totally clear just which overseas herbaria David visited to study Solanaceous material, apart from Kew, and possibly Edinburgh (1963), Missouri (1982) and Bogota (1988) but he did visit and work in the Paris herbarium after the inaugural Flora Malesiana conference in honour of van Steenis in Leiden in August 1989 (Symon 1989). He and his wife Judy and her sister Mary Marlowe rented an apartment in Paris for about 6 weeks and there he worked at the herbarium for 3 days a week (pers. comm., J. Symon, Feb. 2013). While there he also visited the herbarium in Geneva. In 1997 he and Judy visited Turkey and Russia and while in Russia he visited the herbaria in St Petersburg [Leningrad] (25 Sep.) and Moscow (26 Sep.), where he met up with and was hosted by two of the botanists who had attended the Adelaide Solanaceae conference, M.V. Kirtsova and E.I. Korneva.



Fig. 2. David explaining herbarium collections to Robert Hill, then Senator for South Australia and Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, during his 2001 visit to the State Herbarium of South Australia, where he announced funding for data-capture for AVH. — Photo W.R. Barker.

Pasture plant introductions

Following his 1951 Honours thesis work on the autecology and ecotypic variability of *Medicago tribuloides*, David continued work related to medics and clovers and their introduction and establishment in South Australian pastures. An extended trip by him to the Mediterranean in 1956 resulted in the collection of seeds of further cereals, pasture grasses and clovers, all to be grown and tested under South Australian conditions. He published a brief paper on the introduction of subterranean clover by A.W. Howard (Symon 1961), as well as a bibliography (Symon 1961), but considered that the story of its development and promotion by the Howard family and then the later development of other clover species remained to be documented. He was keen that someone should take this up as a project and his papers on the topic are now held by Geoffrey Bishop, but Geoffrey (pers. comm., 28 Jan. 2013) considers that it would be a "big job to pull it all together".

Cassia, later *Senna*

David's earliest taxonomic work was on the genus *Cassia*, later to become *Senna*. On his first extended field trip in 1953 (see below), David recognised that *Cassia* was forming hybrid swarms in the Alice Springs area (Symon 1955) and he later published a note in *Nature* on polyembryony in the genus (Symon 1956). He produced a revision of the genus in Australia in 1966 and then because of the known complexities, suggested it as a Ph.D. topic for genetics student Barbara Randell.

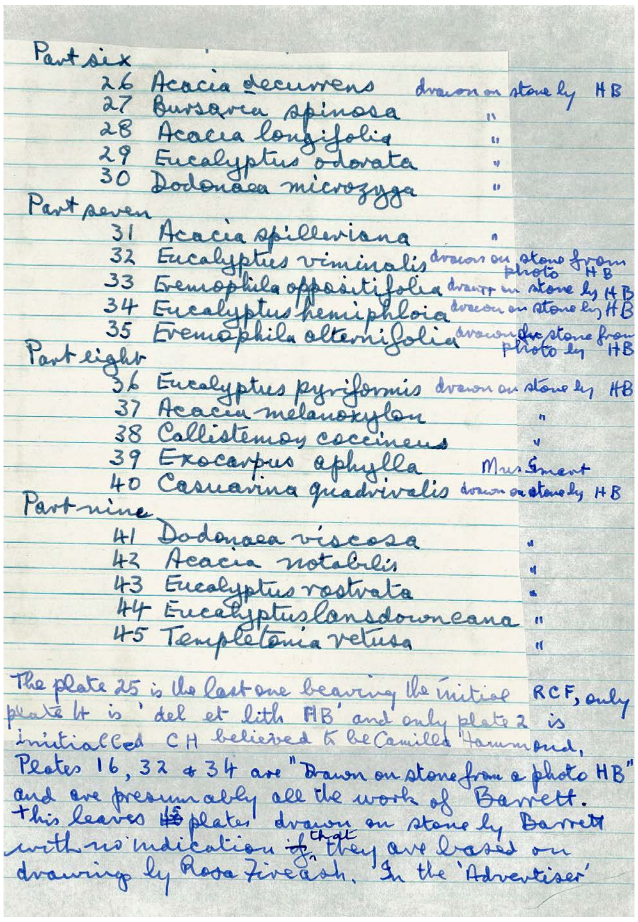
Her Flinders University thesis, *Biosystematic studies in Australian arid-zone Cassia species,* was jointly supervised by Bryan Barlow and David. David was not totally in agreement with the subsequent classification published by Randell & Barlow in the *Flora of Australia* (Randell & Barlow 1998), with its unique concept of "form taxa" for the products of hybridisation, polyploidy and apomixis (Symon 1998) and also with the non-recognition of some taxa which he considered worthy of recognition (Symon 1998, Albrecht & Symon 2000).

Rosaceae

Another family in which he had a long interest was Rosaceae, a group with which he had worked in his Arboretum days, particularly the ornamental pears. He held his hand up to produce an account of this family for the *Flora of Australia* having produced the account of the woody members of the family for the *Flora of South Australia* (Symon 1986). For this reason he made a study of *Acaena* growing locally in South Australia (Symon et al. 2000), primarily to test the many varieties that had earlier been recognised by Orchard (1969). He also produced accounts of *Agrimonia*, *Alchemilla*, *Aphanes*, *Aruncus*, *Cotoneaster*, *Crataegus*, *Cydonia*, *Eriobotrya*, *Geum*, *Malus*, *Photinia*, *Potentilla*, *Prunus*, *Pyracantha*, *Pyrus*, *Rhaphiolepis*, *Rosa*, *Sanguisorba*, *Sorbus* and *Spiraea* for the *Flora of Australia*; these were used by the Australian Plant Census working group (CHAH 2012) to produce the initial list of species for Australia and will no doubt form the basis for new accounts for the floras of Australia and South Australia.

But it was to be blackberry (*Rubus*) for which he found a new interest in the late 1990s. In attending a blackberry workshop in Victoria he was struck by the tale of differing reactions to herbicides and set out to look at the variation encompassed under the term 'blackberry' in Australia. In so doing he joined forces with Kathy Evans, then of the Waite Institute, with David responsible for the collecting and naming of the blackberry specimens and Kathy for analysing their DNA content. In establishing the correct name to be used for each of the Australian species he collected widely and sent material to experts in Germany, England and America — a technique somewhat different from the usual study of types, but required for this apomictic group with literally hundreds of names in Europe.

Although the taxa had already been worked out and been applied for some time the official culmination of the study was the publication of the systematics of introduced *Rubus* (Evans et al. 2007) for Australia. The earlier published, user friendly Lucid key on CD-ROM (Barker & Barker 2005), developed so that the community might attempt identification of blackberry on their land, was heavily dependent on this treatment and was designed to be easily upgradeable, if new information about any of the Australian *Rubus* species became available. Work continued in blackberry to find rust strains suitable as biological control agents against the various blackberry taxa recognised by


Part six
26 Acacia decurrens drawn on stone by HB
27 Bursaria spinosa "
28 Acacia longifolia "
29 Eucalyptus odorata "
30 Dodonaea microzyga "
Part seven
31 Acacia spilleriana "
32 Eucalyptus viminalis drawn on stone from photo HB
33 Eremophila oppositifolia drawn on stone by HB
34 Eucalyptus hemiphloia drawn on stone by HB
35 Eremophila alternifolia drawn on stone from photo by HB
Part eight
36 Eucalyptus pyriformis drawn on stone by HB
37 Acacia melanoxylon "
38 Callistemon coccineus "
39 Exocarpus aphylla Mrs Smart
40 Casuarina quadrivalis drawn on stone by HB
Part nine
41 Dodonaea viscosa "
42 Acacia notabilis "
43 Eucalyptus rostrata "
44 Eucalyptus lansdowneana "
45 Templetonia retusa "

The plate 25 is the last one bearing the initial RCF, only plate 4 is 'del et lith HB' and only plate 2 is initialled CH believed to be Camilla Hammond, Plates 16, 32 & 34 are "Drawn on stone from a photo HB" and are presumably all the work of Barrett. this leaves 15 plates drawn on stone by Barrett with no indication that they are based on drawing by Rosa Fiveash. In the 'Advertiser'

Fig. 3. David's characteristic handwriting. He always used a fountain pen and often cut and pasted various pieces of paper (as can be seen here).

David (Evans et al. 2003, Gomez et al. 2006, Morin et al. 2006) and David continued the work of providing identifications of the *Rubus* vouchers collected during field releases of new rust strains across Australia until around 2010. It became quite clear from these vouchers that there are further taxa present in Australia in need of clarification, but apparently no interest in updating of the taxonomy. Unfortunately this is a common response to the production of new taxonomic treatments and so there still remains unfinished work surrounding the circumscription of introduced *Rubus* in Australia.

Gypseous plants

In later years David developed an interest in gypseous plants (Symon 2000, 2007) and spent some time travelling and collecting these in South Australia, usually in the company of his wife Judy.

Dracaena

Two Dragon's blood trees, *Dracaena draco*, were planted in the Waite Arboretum in 1929, and it was from these that David's fascination with this group of trees grew. He published early (Symon 1974) on changes which had been observed in these two trees as they grew and proposed a means of determining the age of particular trees. During his time in charge of

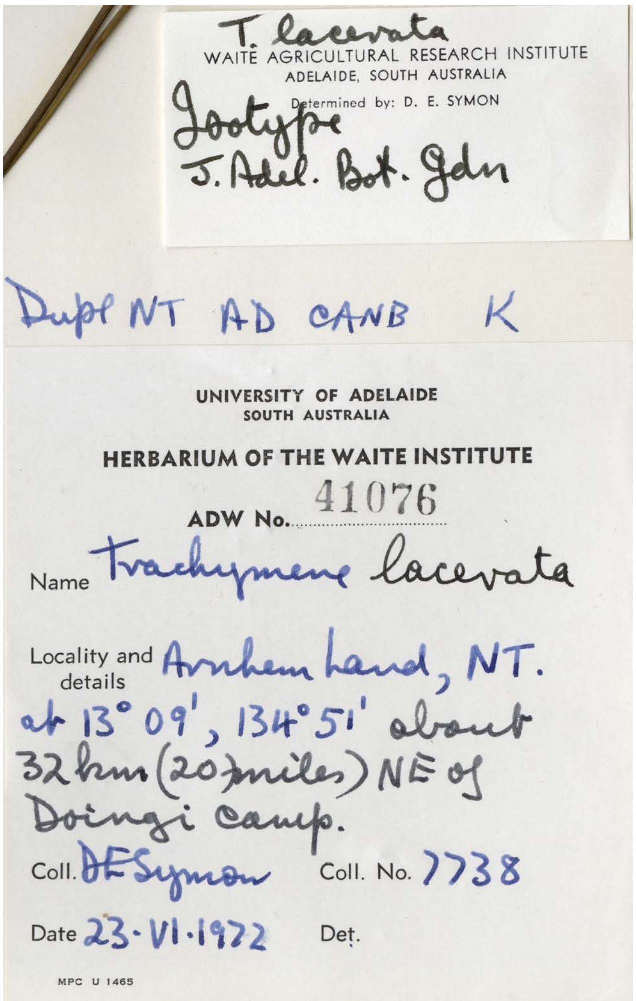


Fig. 4. Handwritten Waite Herbarium label and annotations by David on an isotype specimen of *Trachymene lacerata* Maconochie: *D.E.Symon 7738* (ADW now incorporated into AD).

the Arboretum he was responsible for adding at least eight more *Dracaena* trees including one whose seed came from the iconic "thousand year old" tree[3] in Icod, Teneriffe, Canary Islands in 1967. David continued to work with his successor, Jennifer Gardner, to increase the collection in the Arboretum and there are presently some 21 *Dracaena* trees of varying ages, including nine *D. draco*. Two of these represent a new subspecies from Morocco only described as recently as 1997. Seed was obtained of these and the one planted out in 2001 had already flowered by December 2010 (Symon 2011). David had gathered together a history of the species and its close relatives, documenting its occurrence in Adelaide gardens and elsewhere, and estimating age from the growth form, intending to publish a booklet on the subject. It is appropriate therefore that the site of the plaque celebrating David's 90th birthday (Anon. 2010) and his service to the Arboretum (see Memorials below) was near one of the mature *D. draco* trees with some of the younger representatives nearby (Fig. 7). This same site was also the scene for his well-attended memorial service.

3 The large tree at Icod is the symbol for the island and was originally estimated to be thousands of years old, but in reality is probably only 300 years old (Magdefrau 1975). Unfortunately the tree at the Waite was subjected to attack by corellas with removal of all of its leaves (Symon 2008) and since it is no longer listed in the Arboretum catalogue, it is presumed to have died.

Weeds

David's interest in weeds and their spread was a lifetime one — in the 1950s he was involved in the early identification of khaki weed (*Alternanthera pungens*) in South Australia; although the then Department of Agriculture took action and indicated it was controlled at that time, it remains an ongoing problem. Again in later years he became interested in documenting the spread of native species of *Solanum* and exotic grasses along the major highways of the State. With the appointment of Kew-trained Chris Brodie as Weeds Botanist at the State Herbarium in 2009, there was an instant *rapport* and Chris could not have had a better mentor than David from whom to learn, while David delighted in passing on his knowledge to Chris. Most of David's collections from 2009 were weed collections in association with Chris (Fig. 6).

Botanical History

It is impossible to have the interests that David had without being interested in events of the past. David's publications in this area encompassed the compilation of information about the differing content of the copies of Fannie de Mole's *Wildflowers of South Australia,* the first book on the subject to be produced in South Australia (Symon 2001, 2003). He had a similar interest in the publication of Ednie Brown's *Forest Flora of South Australia* and he and Eric Sims (Symon 1996, Sims and Symon 1997) unravelled much to do with the identity of the artists and lithographer associated with this publication, although there remains still some of this work to be documented in print.

Some of his major contribution to the Sturt pea book (Symon & Jusaitis 2007) surrounded the early history of the plant. He and Rosemary Taplin (Taplin & Symon 2008) looked into the history of Adelaide's early nursery, Newman's Nursery, to establish what had survived to the present day and when he encountered the name *Rubus sanctus* he was intrigued enough to research it and come up with the article on *Burning bushes* for the *ASBS Newsletter* (Symon 2005). Likewise, something that is relatively commonplace now, his was possibly the first documented study of early paintings of South Australia to glean information on the vegetation of that time (Symon 1990). These are just some of the items in whose origins and history David took an interest; others can be seen from his bibliography.

Curation

Officially David curated the families Frankeniaceae, Goodeniaceae, Leguminosae, Rosaceae and Solanaceae in the State Herbarium from 1986 and he was probably one of the few botanists in AD who found time to keep

the specimens in the vaults as up to date as possible. He also believed in collecting literature of a genus or family and keeping it with the collection, a custom he continued from his curation of the ADW collection at the Waite. In later years he was employed to identify collections of the Biological Survey of South Australia team and his distinctively signed determination slips and labels (Fig. 4) are to be found throughout the AD collection.

Floras

David was involved with the pre-political manoeuvres which eventually resulted in the establishment of the *Flora of Australia* project (see below), contributed a new key for *Cassia* to Eichler's *Supplement to Black's Flora of South Australia* (Symon 1965), produced accounts of the Caesalpiniaceae and Solanaceae for the Australian Systematic Botany Society sponsored *Flora of Central Australia* (Symon 1981), was part of the authorship of Solanaceae for the first taxonomic account in the *Flora of Australia* (Purdie et al. 1982) and then contributed Caesalpinioideae and major parts of Solanaceae and Rosaceae to the 4th edition of *The Flora of South Australia* (Symon 1986). Through his curation of the families cited above he also contributed to the various South Australian censuses published between 1983 and 2005 and continued to contribute to the State Herbarium's electronic census databases, CENSAP and subsequently FLORA, after that time.

Communication

David was an habitual letter writer, and this remained his preferred means of communication even when he had access to email. Some of his letters regarding his early field trips were reproduced in the *ASBS Newsletter* at the time of his life membership and he subsequently made a bound collection of them for his personal use (Symon 2001). When he was away interstate or overseas there would inevitably be postcards or letters from David to the "Herbs" with pithy observations in his large rounded hand (Fig. 3 & 4).

David was a good speaker, always very well prepared and, because of this, able to speak with authority on his subject. Much of this probably related to the necessity for him to present undergraduate student lectures in agronomy, but was also because of his deep familiarity with his subject. He was particularly unhappy when he had to listen to speakers who were ill-prepared or went over time — indeed after one ASBS conference where many of the overheads and slides had featured unreadable cladograms as well as speakers who exceeded their allotted time he was prompted to write a note to the *ASBS Newsletter* (Symon 1990) suggesting that organisations should insist on staff presenting their talks to a local audience before doing so at a conference. Those he considered too verbose with the spoken or written word often prompted Hamlet's appropriate "Words, words, words" as an annotation or mutter, and this quotation also featured in his pottery making (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Pottery plate made by David, inscribed with one of his favourite sayings.

The written word in letters was David's strength since it was more suitable for expressing his quick thoughts. He was not so good at writing scientific papers since the brevity employed in his letters extended to these papers and so many of them required considerably more work to expand his notes into a form suitable for publication. This is not to say that his original work was not good, just that his original, often lateral, observations frequently required considerable massaging before a coherent story was produced.

Books

It would be true to say that David loved books and was an inveterate reader across many topics. And many of those topics would later become the subject of discussion around the tea-room table. He was always one of the first to peruse the new books and journals when they were tabled in the Botanic Gardens & State Herbarium Library and the same was probably true of the Barr-Smith Library at The University of Adelaide, which he usually visited once a week.

From 1996 to 2000 he was one of 3 judges for the biennial non-fiction award of the Adelaide Festival of Arts Writers Week but even his love was stretched by the requirement to read and judge some 300 books in a relatively short space of time. Interestingly the first and third of the prizes awarded while he was on the panel went to Tim Flannery for *The Future Eaters* and *Throw'im Way Leg: an Adventure*, respectively, while the middle year went to David Day's *Claiming a Continent: A History of Australia.*

David contributed a number of book reviews, particularly to the *ASBS Newsletter* (Symon 1978(2), 1985, 1987, 1988(2), 1989(2), 1990, 1991, 1992(2), 1996, 1997(3), 1999, 2002, 2005(2), 2010), and more

occasionally to other journals such as *Society for Growing Australian Plants Journal* (Symon 1991), the *Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Gazette* (Symon 1996), the *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* (Symon 1998) and the *Friends of the Waite Arboretum Newsletter* (Symon 1996).

Lucid Keys

David provided the original paper scoring of the characters for the families Solanaceae and Rosaceae for the cooperative Lucid key to *The Families of Flowering Plants of Australia* (Thiele & Adams 1999) and the revised edition in 2002. He played an advisory role in the production of the Lucid keys to Blackberry and Solanaceae (see below).

Supervision and advisory roles

While officially he supervised only 3 postgraduate students, there are countless others whose work owes much to David and you will see him cited in acknowledgements in papers, sometimes in somewhat surprising places — his net has been wide. Further probing will undoubtedly reveal other influences that have been missed here. While much of his advice will have initially involved identification, particularly in *Solanum, Nicotiana* and *Rubus* studies, he usually had further observations to add.

Formal supervision of theses

- Barbara Randell (Ph.D., Flinders University of South Australia, awarded 1970). *Biosystematic studies in Australian arid-zone Cassia species.* Supervisors Bryan Barlow and David Symon
- Laurence Haegi (Ph.D., Flinders University of South Australia, awarded 1984). *Systematic and evolutionary studies in the Australian Solanaceae.* Supervisors Bryan Barlow and David Symon
- Peter Kloot (Ph.D., Dept. of Agronomy, University of Adelaide, awarded 1986). *Studies in the alien flora of the cereal rotation areas of South Australia*. Supervisor David Symon.

Supervision through administration of ABRS Grant

Laurie Haegi and Philippa Horton were both employed on an Australian Biological Resources Study grant awarded to David to complete work on *Datura* and *Nicotiana* respectively.

Acknowledged advisory role

David's expertise in the Solanaceae has been acknowledged in a number of theses:

- Christina Morris (Ph.D., Dept of Plant Biology, University of Birmingham, 1986). *A systematic study of old world members of the genus* Solanum *L.*
- Cassandra Collins (Ph.D., Dept of Horticulture, Viticulture and Oenology, University of Adelaide, 2002). *A study into the domestication of* Solanum centrale*, Australian bush tomato*
- Angela Dennett (Honours, Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Sydney, 2006). *Underground structures and mycorrhizal associations of* Solanum centrale *(the Australian bush tomato)*
- Graeme Morris Weavers (M.Sc., Biological Sciences, University of Waikato, 2010). *Ecological, genetic and cultural status of* Solanum aviculare*, poroporo (Solanaceae)*
- Claire Marks (Ph.D., School of Botany, University of Melbourne, 2010). *The evolution of* Nicotiana *section* Suaveolentes.

Blackberry

Julie Oliver and John Marshall of Flinders University, both of whom worked on blackberry under the supervision of Dr Molly Whalen, were originally dependent on David for advice and identification of the taxa.

Lucid Keys

David played an advisory role in the early stages of the production of the Lucid keys to Blackberry and Solanaceae (Barker & Barker 2005; Barker 2010) and his original work underpinned much of the information projected in these keys. While he recognised the value of the keys, they were not for him and he much preferred a written dichotomous key. However, he still gave freely of his time and knowledge when questions about species and their classification arose and did acknowledge their worth.

American collaborations

Greg Anderson, University of Connecticut, was awarded NSF grants in 1979–1980 to study the reproductive biology of *Solanum* in Australia and he based himself in Adelaide with David to carry out this work. One of Greg's students, Chris Martine, now of Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, came to Australia in 2004 on a collecting trip as part of his Ph.D. studies "*On the evolution, distribution and Natural History of dioecy in Australian* Solanum" and David was able to spend time in the field with him in Kakadu. Both of these projects relied heavily on David's knowledge of the group. Chris has just recently recounted his intention of describing a new species of *Solanum* in the Northern Territory, only to find that David had already annotated the material in the Darwin Herbarium several years ago and already provided a description (Martine 2013).

Botanical committees, societies and education

Many new scientific or special interest groups, local through to international, were formed during David's working life and though it is known that he had involvement with some, it is not always clear just what it was. Unfortunately the early documentation of small societies, or even some of the larger ones, is not always good, and even if the members are organised enough to produce a newsletter, the sort of information needed is seldom recorded or the newsletter has not been deposited in a library. And the societies, if they still exist, are still usually too young to contemplate a history of their activities. These statements apply to several groups with

which David was associated and it is a pity that some forethought was not given to getting him to write down his recollections of the early days of these societies and his involvement with them.

Coolabah Club

The Club was formed in 1959 after a group of farmers heard a lecture from David on the use of trees on the farm (Michelmore & Michelmore 1991). This was presumably the Adult Education course designed to encourage farmers to plant trees for shelter belts and for economic purposes, first conducted for 60 farmers in 1957. David ran the course, but included other speakers such as Noel Lothian (Botanic Gardens) and members of the Department of Woods and Forests, including Cliff Boomsma (see reproduction[4] of article from Feb./Mar. 1957 in Barker 2012b, p. 14). The Club was formed at about the same time as the Society for Growing Australian Plants and was a forerunner to such groups as Men Of The Trees, Trees For Life, Greening Australia and Land Care, but in this case, as well as planting trees on their own land they also worked with the Highways Department in planting native trees on roadsides.

While David did not play a big part in the Club he was always there for advice and for tours of the Arboretum. He distributed *Pistacia atlantica* (Mt. Atlas mastic tree or Persian turpentine tree) to members of the Club in 1965 and there are occasional references to their progress in the Club's newsletter in later years. The tree is very slow growing and may well persist on farms which obtained it at this time, but since it is dioecious it is unlikely to become a weed problem of the future, unlike others. Likewise David distributed the ornamental pink-flowering eucalypt, '*Urrbrae Gem*', a seedling of which was discovered at the Arboretum by head gardener Fred Couzens, and is thought to be a cross between *E. erythronema* and *E. stricklandii*. The 1957 article mentioned above indicated that seed of this species had already been widely distributed and it had been "chosen by the Housing Trust for extensive plantings at Elizabeth".

Unfortunately the Club is now defunct and a whole lot of history concerning the planting of trees on farms in South Australia will be lost unless efforts are made to record it soon. Since the membership was at one time about 100 families this is not an insignificant contribution to the present vegetation of the State. The Botanic Gardens Library holds copies of newsletters of this society from c. 1981, but earlier ones are lacking and information will be lost unless action is taken to track them down.

Given his role at the Arboretum and his interests in Australian plants it is likely that David played a similar role with the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) particularly as the two societies had overlapping membership.

[4] The original article has not been seen, but a cutting in David's possession was photographed for the article and can be read at this site (Barker 2012b).



Fig. 6. David during field work with Chris Brodie, 2010. — Photo: C.J. Brodie.

Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) and the setting up of the Flora of Australia

Long the umbrella body for Australian scientists, with plant systematics represented under the Botany subgroup, ANZAAS was the normal vehicle of communication between plant systematists in Australia and New Zealand up until the formation of the more specialised Australian Systematic Botany Society and the formation of the Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria (CHAH). Even the earlier association of plant systematists, who published *Australasian Herbarium News* from 1947–1954, was governed by an ANZAAS established committee. David spoke on "The subgeneric limits in *Solanum*" at the ANZAAS conference in Adelaide in 1969, and also at the 1973 Perth meeting (see above), but no further investigations have been made into his certain contributions to other conferences conducted by them, primarily because very few of their proceedings are available in our library.

ANZAAS was also instrumental in setting up a *Flora of Australia* Committee in 1959 "to prepare estimates and detailed plans of the organisation required for the preparation of a new *Flora Australiensis*". David was part of this committee, which recommended the production of a new monographic *Flora of Australia* (Blake 1960, cited in George et al. 1999). He was also part of the later *Flora of Australia* Standing Committee, set up by the Academy of Science in 1971 (Catcheside 1974), and later, when the *Flora of Australia* became a reality, he was a member of the first *Flora of Australia* Editorial Committee from 1980 to 1984. This inaugural



Fig. 7. David sitting on the plaque that was unveiled at his 90th birthday, in front of his favourite *Dracaena* tree, Oct. 2010. — Photo: D.E.A. Catcheside.

editorial committee was responsible for deciding the format that the *Flora* took. Five volumes, including the Introduction and Solanaceae, were produced in the time that David was involved with the committee.

Royal Society of South Australia

The other outlet in South Australia for scientific endeavours when David was beginning his career as an academic was the Royal Society of South Australia. David first gave a talk to the Society in August 1959 on *The history and domestication of subterranean clover* and was elected as a member of the Society in 1962. He published some of his earliest papers in their journal.

Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA)

Formed in 1962, it is known that David had a very heavy involvement with the Society until at least 1986, primarily through participation in botanical surveys and often the writing up of the results of these surveys (see Symon 1967(2), 1968(3), 1969, 1971, 1973(3), 1975(2), 1977(4) & 1985(2), Symon & Weber 1973, Symon & Copley 1986, and Harris, Reeves & Symon 1982). He served at least one term as President of the Society, but details are sketchy.

Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria (CHAH)

Under apparently somewhat controversial circumstances David attended the meeting that was to form this group in 1972. As a representative of a university herbarium he was only granted observer status (see Briggs 2003).

The Flora and Fauna of South Australia Handbooks Committee (1972–1994)

David had a long involvement with this committee, first set up in 1921 at the suggestion of J.B. Cleland, for scientists to produce works on the flora and fauna of the State and for these to be printed by the Government Printer. His involvement was at a particularly productive time with volumes being produced on fish, plant feeding bugs, butterflies, amphibians, lichens, mosses, acacias, orchids and marine invertebrates as well as the 1986 edition of the *Flora of South Australia*. He contributed as an author to the updated 1986 edition of the *Flora* and also produced a revised edition of the handbook on acacias (Whibley & Symon 1992).

With the abolition of the position of Government Printer the Committee was wound up in October 2001 (Zeidler 2002).

Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens (1978–2002)

David was listed as a consultant botanist from the third part of volume 1 (1978). At this time he was still employed at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. He continued to be listed as such until 1993, after which he was included as part of the editorial committee; he continued to be listed in this role through to volume 20 (2002).

Australian Systematic Botany Society

David attended the meeting in Melbourne in April 1973 where the proposal was first made to form the Society and although he never held office, believing that was for the younger generation, he supported the Society through the newsletter and participation in local ASBS meetings.

He was the South Australian chapter convener in 1982/3. The chapter held monthly meetings from its inception in 1974 until 2001, when these were suspended for lack of attending members. David attended every meeting that he was available and though the membership present might have been small in later years and it therefore became difficult to invite outside speakers, the discussion part of the evening was invariably very rewarding to both speaker and those members present, often because of some of David's more probing or lateral questions or because of further observations he was able to add from his intimate knowledge of the flora. David's participation in Society events was documented in the *ASBS Newsletter* when he was awarded Life Membership of the Society in 2000 (Barker 1997, 2000).

David was invited by his peers to give the 1986 Nancy Burbidge Lecture at the ASBS meeting in Brisbane and obliged with a talk entitled *The diversity of* Solanum *fruits: a world survey*. He participated in the 'History Symposium' of 1988 when he used his study of early Adelaide paintings in the Art Gallery of South Australia

to discuss the early vegetation of the Adelaide region (Symon 1990) and he and his wife Judy formed part of the 2008 Adelaide Conference dinner entertainment with their renditions of Australian poetry containing references to plants. He undoubtedly contributed further as a speaker at other ASBS conferences, but there is not a complete collection of conference booklets in our library.

International Solanaceae conferences

Scientists working on many of the larger economic plant families have formed their own alliances and have their own conferences (grasses, orchids etc.). With the production of the first *Solanaceae Newsletter* by Richard Lester, University of Birmingham, England, in 1974, the first Solanaceae conference soon followed in Birmingham in 1976. David attended and spoke at this meeting (Symon 1979) and at the subsequent two meetings in Missouri, USA, in 1982 (Symon 1986) and Bogota, Columbia in 1988 (Symon 1991). David's account of the trials of getting to the latter conference is given in a reproduction of a letter published in Barker (2000).

The 4th International Solanaceae meeting was held in Adelaide in September 1994 with David as the main organiser and part of the international publishing team for the proceedings (Nee et al. 2000). He was still involved in the presentation of a paper (Lepschi & Symon 2000) and also a separate treatise on the kangaroo apples (Symon 1994). These Solanaceae meetings have continued on, but David was unable to attend any more, although he remained in letter and email contact with many of the participants.

With his broad interests in Solanaceae, David supplied Australian Solanaceous material for DNA studies to his colleagues around the world (e.g. Garcia & Olmstead 2003) or more recently he was involved in the gathering of fruits of Kangaroo Apples from various sources for study of their flavour and aroma for collaborative work with Dr Kerry Wilkinson, Wine and Horticulture, The University of Adelaide.

Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens

Like most of the botanists of the State Herbarium, David was not a member of this group, but gave freely of his time in educating the members. In the early days of the Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, he provided tours of the Waite Arboretum on weekends, something that he was later to continue to do for the Friends of the Waite Arboretum (see below).

Friends of the Waite Arboretum

David was an inaugural member of this group when it formed in 1997 and participated in a number of ways. Always popular as a speaker, he contributed as the entertainment for several fund-raising dinners, where he gave a background to the plants making up the dishes consumed. He and Judy gave poetry readings from the poems he was accumulating on Australian plants (Bird 2008, 2009) and he was a long time guide for the walks offered to the public once a month on a Sunday morning. He was a fount of knowledge through his association with the Arboretum since the 1950s and his work there has been recognised with a tree, a seat and a plaque (see below). David only retired from providing guided tours of the Waite Arboretum at the end of 2010 when walking became more problematic.

Tree and Roadway Experimental and Educational Network (TREENET)

Again an inaugural member of this society, which held its first symposium in 2000 after earlier meetings as the Urban Tree Cooperative Research Group. David participated in all of the early symposia and it was his selection of the cultivar 'Lynington' of *Pyrus calleryana,* a flowering pear, that was initially promoted by the Network. This group has now become an Australia-wide body renowned for their work on all aspects of street trees and it very appropriate that it has its home at the Waite Arboretum where so much knowledge about the growth of trees has been accumulated since the 1920s.

University of the Third Age (U3A)

I have no details, but David lectured on botanical subjects at the Adelaide branch of the University of the Third Age for some years.

Honours

- D.Sc., University of Adelaide, awarded 1996 (Fig. 8)
- Life member of the Australian Systematic Botany Society, awarded 2000
- Elected a Corresponding Member[5] of the Botanical Society of America 2010.

Memorials at the Waite Arboretum and the Adelaide Botanic Gardens

David's contribution to the Waite Arboretum had already been recognised by Tree no. 496, *Quercus agrifolia*, planted on 25th July 1984. The inscription which accompanies the tree is as follows:

> D.E.Symon. South Australian botanist. In charge of the Waite Arboretum 1956–85. During this period changes in policy were made and summer watering ceased. A 'homocline' approach was used in the introduction of tree species. Recording of data was intensified.

There is also a seat in the Arboretum which marks David's time as curator from 1956–1985.

In October 2010 a plaque was unveiled under one of David's favourite dragon trees (*Dracaena draco*) to mark his 90th birthday and his contribution to the Arboretum. Images of the occasion, the plaque and the seat can be seen in Barker (2012).

On National Tree Day, 28th July 2013, a *Capparis mitchellii*, originally grown by David and given to Barbara Wheaton, was planted in his memory in the mallee section of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

[5] Corresponding members are distinguished senior scientists who have made outstanding contributions to plant science and who live and work outside of the United States of America. Corresponding members are nominated by the Council and have all the privileges of life-time members.



Fig. 8. David and Judy Symon in May 1996, after David was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by The University of Adelaide. — Photo: W.R. Barker.

Unfinished projects.

Solanum — a new species from the Litchfield area in the Northern Territory is in the process of being published by Chris Martine (Martine 2013). Female flowers of this dioecious species, recognised as new by David some years ago, have been difficult to locate, accounting for the delay.

Nicotiana — there are two matters in need of clarification:

- an unpublished species with an existing phrase name, *Nicotiana* sp. Corunna (*D.E.Symon 17088*) Symon. Claire Marks (pers. comm., 2010) considers this to be a distinct species and it is likely to be published by her in collaboration with a group from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, who are working on chromosomal evolution in the genus (J.G. Conran, pers. comm., 2013).
- the re-introduction of an old name, *N. exigua* H.-M. Wheeler, for specimens from the Strzelecki region following record rains. My opinion is that this needs to be looked at very carefully since it seem unlikely that a name based on seed collected from Dalby in SE Queensland would relate to plants arising after floods in the Cooper Creek system.

Manuscript of Rosaceae for the *Flora of Australia* — David's handwritten manuscript was sent to ABRS in Canberra for typing some years ago. A copy is held in Adelaide and this work will form a basis for treatments in the *Flora of Australia* and the *Flora of South Australia*

Dragon's blood tree — preparation of a booklet on *Dracaena draco* and its allies (see above). This manuscript is presently with Geoffrey Bishop, but it will need quite a lot of work if it is to progress further.

Medics — a history of the introduction of clovers in South Australia (see comments above).

Ednie Brown — a background to the man and his *Forest Flora of South Australia*, with clarification of who produced what in each of the plates. David's part of this has been completed, but joint author, Robyn Barker, has still to finalise her portion of the manuscript.

Australian plants in verse — with the completion of the *Sturt Pea* book (Simon & Jusaitis 2007), David became preoccupied with bringing together a publication on the treatment of Australian plants from the collected poetry of Australia. He spent hours poring over poetry books, collecting together those that they thought warranted the term 'poem' rather than doggerel and discussing them with Judy and his associates at the Herbarium; in this way he had gathered together some two thousand poems. Choosing between these poems, considering how they should be presented and getting permission to have them reproduced, unfortunately, rather foundered this project, but hopefully, progress may still be able to be made with it. David and Judy gave several popularly received readings to the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and one to the Adelaide ASBS Conference dinner in 2008.

Conclusion

David's was an active and productive life, and also a blessed one, lived as it was primarily in good health, in the days when academics still had time to grow and reflect and to enthuse students with their own passions and to enjoy study leave for its original purpose. The pace of life suited David with his enquiring mind, his handwritten letters and being able to hand over a manuscript and expect it back beautifully typed. Even if there was more personal discomfort, the slower pace of long and arduous field trips in areas where bitumen roads did not exist was more conducive to observation and reflection on the vegetation and not just a race to an already documented plant in order to make collections. The comparative lack of red tape during his academic life, compared with today, has to have been an advantage, as too the knowledge that his family was being well-looked after by a wife who took on the major responsibility of bringing up the family rather than seeking her own career. And despite all of his wide interest in plants there still remained time for his family and for those other non-plant pursuits that he loved, such as reading and the theatre.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to David's family and herbarium colleagues, who contributed in so many different ways to this review of his scientific life. As with any such account there are some gaps, particularly with his early involvement with various societies, but it is hoped that the coverage is sufficient to do justice to this remarkable man.

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Appendix 1

Plant collections held by the State Herbarium of South Australia

David's numbered collections began in Nov. 1959 with his first numbers being collected in the Grampians in Victoria. However, he had made numerous collections before this time and an attempt has been made to document these from information compiled from plant label data entered in ADHERB, the collections database of the State Herbarium of South Australia. A few of these specimens do have collector's numbers, but the numbers do not appear to bear any relationship to the numbered collections after 1959.

Pre-numbered collecting books (Table 1)

David made at least two major collecting trips before he adopted the sequential numbering system. The first of these was the 'Central Australia Expedition' about which David wrote

> My first field trip was in 1953 when the University of Adelaide funded an educational trip for C.S. Bauer, "Fred" Jessup, P. Madge, P.G. Martin, G. Mayo, K. Phillips and D. Symon to Central Australia. In two vehicles we drove to Alice Springs, the Hartz Ranges, McDonnell Ranges, Ayers Rock and the Olgas. It was successful despite some tensions within the party and all remembered it to their dying day (only two participants still survive). This was before my botanical career began and the plant collections were sadly inadequate. Considering University stringency these days it seems inconceivably generous. The only paper resulting directly from the trip was Symon (1955) on *Cassia*.
>
> Symon in Barker (2000)

The second major trip was a seed collecting venture to the Mediterranean in 1956 funded jointly by the Waite Institute and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. David's brief was to collect pasture seed and he travelled for much of the time with two Swedish plant breeders, Gösta Olssen and Sven Ellerstrom, who were collecting *Brassica* and *Beta*. While there is no evidence of any vouchers from this trip amongst the collections in AD, there are cultivated collections of *Hordeum* grown at the Waite Institute in 1959 from seed collected from that time. Notes on these collections give the original seed collection locality, usually with a date, and from these it is possible to say that David visited Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Malta between February and August of 1956; more precise localities are given in the notes on each of the specimens. We also know that he visited the walls of the Monaco Palace in an attempt to collect some *Brassica* seed, but was foiled by palace security (Barker 2012b). Clearly David collected more than *Hordeum* on this trip and it remains to be seen whether any herbarium specimens surface. The lack of mention of herbarium

specimens in letters which he wrote home at the time (Symon 2001) and the difficulty that carrying a press would have caused, suggest that vouchers are unlikely. Nor is it known what happened to the original seed collections.

Sequentially numbered collections (Table 2)

While his collecting books are deposited in AD they are not always terribly informative. With the earlier AD collector's book, David detached all of the informative details to go with the specimen, leaving only the stub with the number and, usually, an identification. When using the later collector's books, he did not make use of the duplicate sheet meant to be retained in the book and seems to have merely used the book as a means of keeping the numbers of his collections sequential. Often there is only the name of the plant given and the details must have been provided to the databaser on a separate piece of paper, rather than being entered in the collector's book. For this reason much of the following information was originally compiled[6] from the collector's books with confirmation from the collections database (ADHERB) of the State Herbarium of South Australia. The output does indicate that numbers were collected out of sequence on a number of occasions.

[6] After having compiled the list, I came across David's own list of his collections up until 2002 and so that has also been used in checking the information below.

Table 1. Pre-numbered collecting books of D.E. Symon (before Nov. 1959).

Year	Number of collections in ADHERB database	Locality	Comments
1946	**27**	all Adelaide environs, mostly Roseworthy College	Un-numbered
1947	**3**	SE, SL	Un-numbered
Oct. 1948	**10**	8 of the collections are identified as *Medicago polymorpha* L. var. *polymorpha* from near Adelaide	The medics numbered 3–16, with a single sheet bearing up to 3 numbers
1949	**0**		
1950	**c. 7**		
1951	**53** (22 of these in May from Qld)	The 22 specimens from Qld were all grasses, except for 2 *Xanthorrhoea*, and all from the Gatton area, Qld (while based at Gatton Agricultural College)	Un-numbered Graduates Adelaide University B.Ag.Sc. (Hons)
1952	**176 total**	c. 62 of these collected in NSW and Vic from 12–21 Jan. with M.V. Carter; 27 from Yorke Peninsula between 8–10 Oct.	First year as Lecturer in Agronomy Department, Uni of Adelaide
1953	**862 total**	c. 780 collections from 15 May–27 June from 'Central Australia Expedition' (see text)	Mostly un-numbered; for those few with numbers their significance is not obvious
1954	**108 total**	March: 42 collections from Kangaroo Island, SA September: 22 collections from Armadale, Kojonup and Merredin, WA	
1955	**32 total**	From various areas in SA, 3 of them cultivated plants	
1956	**3 total**	Seed collecting of cereals, pasture grasses and clovers in the Mediterranean between May and August	Appointed Systematic Botanist at the Waite (Gardner 1990) There is no obvious evidence of the Mediterranean collections in the herbarium and it is not known whether there were voucher collections made to accompany the seed collections, but it seems unlikely
1957	**37 total**		Marriage
1958	**164 total**	58 collections on 13 Nov. from Yorke Peninsula	All un-numbered
1959	**427 un-numbered collections** (numbered collections began in Nov. 1959)	239 collections on 21 Sep.–2 Oct. from Nullarbor and Eyre Peninsula 32 collections on 26 Oct. the harvested plants from seeds of Mediterranean *Hordeum* planted at Waite on 1 Apr. 1959	Beginning of sequential numbering system, but these collections un-numbered or (*Hordeum* specimens) with a number not related to the DES sequence below

Collections from one trip or locality have been indicated for each year and the first number for the start of each year is indicated in bold. The total number of collections for each year has also been given, but these numbers can only be approximate, because of the quite significant number of unnumbered collections, especially of cultivated plants, the lack of databasing of some of these, as well as the lack of databasing of some interstate and all overseas collections. The yearly total given usually exceeds that of the collector's book numbers because of un-numbered collections as well as the inclusion of collections in which David was not the principal collector.

David also grew many plants of interest to him in pots either in the home garden at Tusmore or at the Waite Institute. Many *Solanum* and *Nicotiana* species in particular, were grown on from his field collections and further observations, and sometimes photographs, made of their attributes. This practise was not confined to Solanaceae and was quite frequently used for non-flowering specimens which were grown on until they had flowered.

On some of his longer trips, David often had interesting companions. In February 1965 he accompanied Professor Tom Browning to the Dalhousie Springs area to collect kangaroo ticks, managing to still collect over 200 specimens despite the difficult travel. In 1967 he was part of the archaeological dig led by R.V.S. Wright of the Australian Institute for Aboriginal Studies at Koonalda Cave (Wright 1971), again collecting over 200 specimens. He accompanied David Collins and Frank Eastwood of Monash University on a long trip through Western Australia and Northern Territory in search of *Solanum* alkaloids in 1975 (see Collins 2013 for an account of this trip). To name just a few, he was accompanied by botanists Bryan Barlow of Flinders University (1967), John Maconochie, Norm Byrnes and Peter Latz of the Alice Springs Herbarium (1971, 1972) and Greg Anderson of the University of Connecticut (1980) on Australian *Solanum* forays and in Papua New Guinea was accompanied by nationals Michael Galore, Paul Katik and Aubeta Kairo (1977 and 1984), the latter two renowned for their knowledge of the PNG flora.

David was also heavily involved in surveys of particular areas of conservation significance in South Australia. During his working life and through his involvement with the newly formed Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (N.C.S.S.A.), he was heavily involved in surveys in areas which were already, or would later become, national parks or reserves (e.g. Hambidge, Hincks, Oraparinna, Gawler Ranges, Carapee Hill, Innes, Coorong and Ninety Mile Desert) as well as joining a Royal Society of South Australia expedition to the Pearson Islands. After his retirement in 1985, he joined a number of the National Parks and Wildlife Service biological surveys. Where a report is known to have been prepared as a result of a survey the reference has been indicated in Table 2, but the list is not exhaustive and should be taken as an indication only. Some of his collections on these surveys were made using a NPYE, or later, a BS number; these are indicated in the list.

In the last 2 years most of David's collecting was done in association with the State Herbarium's Weeds Botanist, Chris Brodie, under Chris's collecting numbers.

Table 2. Sequentially numbered collections of D.E. Symon (from Nov. 1959)

Year (number of collections in ADHERB in brackets)	DES collecting numbers with additional Biol. Survey numbers (NPYE and BS)	General locality of collections, remarks
1959 (299)	**1–**	
3 Nov.	1–111	Grampians, Vic
8 Nov.	114–141	Port Fairy, Vic
9 Nov.	142–299	Grampians, Vic
1960 (857)	**332–**	
24 Jan.	301–306	Yorke Peninsula
25 Jan.	309–329	Mt Compass
20 Feb.	330–365	Waite environs
23 Feb.	377–403	Salisbury & Main North Road
11–13 Apr.	430–514	Mambray Creek, Pt Augusta–Mundallio Pound, Horrocks Pass–Mt Remarkable
13–19 Sep.	539–716	Wilpena
27 Oct.	775–818	Saddleworth
11–15 Nov.	830–970	Tumby Bay environs
12–17 Nov.	971–999	Wilpena, Flinders Ranges
1–11 Dec.	1000–1159	NW SA to Eyre Peninsula with Tom Browning–Arcoona, Andamooka, Stuart Ck, Billa Kalina, Anna Creek, Commonwealth Hill, Kingoonya, Whyalla
1961 (725)	**1166–**	
6–9 Mar.	1168–1213	Mt Gambier environs
25 July	1245–1272	Happy Valley reserve
30 Aug.	1273–1306	Florieton, Bower, Sedan

4–10 Sep.	1307–1439	Wilpena, Aroona, Brachina, Arkaba (Flinders Ranges)
14 Sep.	1440–1499	Winulta, Yorke Peninsula
12 Oct.	1533–1596	Waite plots in Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve
25 Oct.	1604–1640	Adelaide Hills, Blakiston etc.
30 Oct.–8 Nov.	1641–1870	Horsham, Grampians, W Victoria
28 Nov.	1895–1922	Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve
1962 (928)	**1944–**	
1–2 Mar.	1951–2030	Yorke Peninsula
7 Mar.	2036–2070	Upper Murray River
11 Mar.	2071–2079	Millbrook
14 Mar.	2080–2096	Port Augusta, lower Flinders Ranges
11 Apr.	2097–2116	Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, Waite plots
28–30 May	2127–2154	Wilpena, Parachilna, Blinman
30 July–14 Aug.	2155–2748	Musgrave, Tomkinson, Rawlinson, Mann, Sir Frederick and Walter James Ranges, Hopkins Lake, Schwerin Mural Crescent, Giles, Mt Lindsay, Piltadi, Mt Woodroffe, Kenmore Park, Woomera
13 Sep.	2752–2766	Roseworthy College
3 Oct.	2767–2872	Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, Waite plots
1963 (27)	**2875**–2884	West Beach
1964 (449)	**2885–**	
11–14 Aug.	2900–2931 A competing numbered set, indicated in italics, appears to have begun here, possibly because of the involvement of students: *DES 1–c. 50.*	Koomooloo, Bungaree, Crystal Brook, Maitland, Moonta–Waite Agricultural Science students tour.
14–17 Sep.	*DES 82 –115*	Environs of Waite Agricultural Research Institute
1 Oct	2951–2958 *DES 119–151*	South East student tour
10–13 Oct.	2959–3106 *DES 154–163*	Pt Augusta, Flinders Ranges, Gammon Ranges
Oct. (s.dat.)	2816–2872	Waite plots environs, Mt Compass
20 Nov.	3107–3164	Roadside about property of Mr. Thomas, 'Bundaleer', Monarto South
29 Dec.	3167–3178	Blanchetown
1965 (801)	**3180–**	
10–23 Feb.	3219–3452	Dalhousie Springs with Tom Browning: Strangways Spring, Everglades, Mt Dare, Everard Park, Mt Illbillie, Commonwealth Hill, Woomera, Lake Bring, Wynbring, Tarcoola, Kokatha, Moonaree, Whyalla
21–26 Aug.	3457–3514	Grampians, Victoria
7 Oct.	3526–3585	Morgan
9–12 Oct.	3586–3897	Overland Corner, Oak Dam, Calperum
16 Dec.	3899–3947	Clare, Mintaro
1966 (621)	**3949–**	
1–5 Mar.	3963–4052	Flinders Ranges, Mt McKinley, Mt Serle
8–10 Oct.	4078–4323	Hambidge Reserve, Eyre Peninsula (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon & Kraehenbuehl (1967)
1–2 Nov.	4331–4405	Simpson Desert. See Symon (1969)
9 Nov.	4406–4449	Mortlock Experimental Station, Mintaro
1967 (1087)	**4474–**	
13–25 Feb.	4481–4697	Eyre Peninsula, Koonalda Caves (archaeological dig led by R.V.S. Wright). Account in Wright (1971). One of David's letters home in Symon (2001) is from this expedition
15 May–3 June	4743–5044	Cultivated Solanaceae: N Qld–Townsville, Atherton, Laura, Coen, etc., to
4–18 June	5045–5242	Darwin (Northern Territory) with Mary Clark (cousin) and then Darwin, to
19 June–6 July	5243–5478	Kalgoorlie (Western Australia) with Bryan Barlow, Flinders University Hundred of Blesing, Peninsula (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1968)
1968 (1113)	**5505–**	
14–26 Aug.	5520–6102	Strzelecki to Flinders Ranges

8–13 Oct.	6108–6559	Hincks Reserve, Eyre Peninsula (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1968)
8 Nov.	6565–6598	Mortlock Station, Mintaro
1969 (279)	**5891–**	
6–18 Jan.	6602–6681	Pearson and Dorothee Islands (Royal Society of SA). See Symon (1971)
19–22 June	6729–6752	Broken Hill area, NSW
5–6 Sep.	6761–6797	Flinders Ranges
	6798–6878	Cultivated from Pearson Island soil (mostly not databased)
1970 (12)	None of sequential numbers used	
1971 (705)	**6881–**	
16 May–10 June	6895–7191	Kimberleys–Yuendumu, Tanami, Hooker Ck, Victoria River Downs, Broome, King Leopolds, Kalumburu with Alice Springs Herbarium staff John Maconochie and assistant Greg, Norm Byrnes and cook, Curly
12–20 Sep.	7193–7547	Flinders Ranges, Oraparinna
8–10 Oct.	7558–7588	Oraparinna National Park (N.C.S.S.A.). With C.R. Alcock, S. Barker, E. Jackson, R. Nash and J. Weber. See Symon (1971)
1972 (909)	**7590–**	
16 Jan.	7590–7624	Miltadie, Eyre Peninsula, collections by Roy Pearce under DES numbers
12 June–5 July	7637–8010	Northern Territory– Arnhem, Gove, Darwin with Alice Springs Herbarium staff, John Maconochie, Peter Latz and Norm Byrnes, Bob Fox and Jenny ?Harmer (nee Must)
16–18 Sep.	8013–8033	Flinders to Lake Frome
1–10 Oct.	8037–8379	Gawler Ranges (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1975)
1973 (449)	**8380–**	
8 Jan	8380–8450	Wingelena, Blackstone Ranges, Western Australia (nickel mine)
21–28 Jan.	8451–8506	Kangaroo Island
9–10 June	8534–8577	Belacre, Meningie, upper South East (student tour)
20–25 Oct.	8581–8786	Scorpion Springs Conservation Park (N.C.S.S.A.). With J. Carrick and E. Jackson. See Harris, Reeves & Symon (1982)
1974 (1099)	**8801–**	
14–16 Sep.	8822–9052 (also 9678–9681)	Carrappee Hill, Eyre Peninsula (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1975)
18–30 Sep.	9075–9484	NE SA–Oodnadatta–Dalhousie, Simpson Desert, Purni Bore
6–11 Oct.	9485–9699	Innes National Park, Yorke Peninsula (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1977)
26 Nov.	9701–9757	Monarto
1975 (819)	**9771–**	
27 Jan.–7 Feb.	9778–9894	*Solanum elaeagnifolium* trip: Vic.–NSW with Roy Pearce
11 May–12 June	9908–10387	Western Australia–Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Wiluna, Meekatharra, Wittenoom, Broome, Mt Leopold, Kalumburu, Tablelands, Wyndham, Baines River, Alice Springs with David Collins and Frank Eastwood (Monash University)
9–12 Oct.	10395–10559	Coorong (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1977)
1976 (69)	**10584–**	
1977 (271 + 83 PNG)	**10617–**	
	10623–10707	Papua New Guinea (specimens not yet databased). With Nigel Clunie, Paul Katik, Michael Galore
1–?8 Oct.	10710–10930	Mt Shaugh Conservation Park, Comet Bore, Scorpion Springs Conservation Park (N.C.S.S.A.). With C.R. Alcock, E. Jackson and J.G. West. See Harris, Reeves & Symon (1982)
1978 (547)	**10975–**	
23 Sep.	11035–11103	Pt Davenport, Yorke Peninsula
1–6 Oct.	11104–11445	Mound Springs, Lake Eyre (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon (1985)
21–22 Oct.	11448–11481	Arckaringa Hills
1979 (783)	**11511–**	
10–23 Jan.	11514–11534	NSW–Dorrigo–Myleston
11–16 Sep.	11575–11588; s.n.	River Murray, Chowilla (J.S. Womersley 543–638 & D.E. Symon). Reconnaissance houseboat trip for International Botanical Congress tour in 1980 with W.R. Barker et al.
29 Sep.–2 Oct.	11596–11827, 11947–11950	Marble Range, Eyre Peninsula (some anomalous numbers). (N.C.S.S.A.)

3–4 Nov.	11838–11956	Pt Davenport, Yorke Peninsula
16 Nov.	11762, 11928–11943	Waite property at Sandergrove, S of Strathalbyn
1980 (910)	**11959–**	
4–8 Jan.	11959–11989	Oraparinna, Flinders Ranges
1–22 April	11998–12142	Northern Territory—Western Australia (Kimberleys): *Solanum* trip with Gregory J. Anderson, University of Connecticut
16–30 Aug.	12158–12772	Great Victoria Desert (N.C.S.S.A.). See Symon & Copley (1986)
8 Oct.	12781–12810	Loxton
1981 (209)	**12831–**	
4 Apr.	12838–12849	Whyalla
10 Dec.	12885–12937	Mintaro, Clare area
17 Dec.	12939–13016	Southern Hills
1982 (60)	**13020–**	
1–2 Nov.	13030–13062	Oraparinna, Flinders Ranges
1983 (695)	**13065–**	
20–26 June	13109–13217	Dalhousie with Brendan Lay
23–26 Aug.	13231–13250	Students tour, mid North
12–13 Oct.	13251–13345	Milang, southern Hills
		Morgan–Cadell
14 Nov.	13377–13497	Kuitpo
		Waite environs
18–20 Dec.	13509–13714	Porter Bay near Port Lincoln (with David Morgan)
1984 (982 + 97 PNG)	**13214–**	
25 Jan.	13716–13783	Southern Hills
6–7 Mar.	13785–13797, 13904	Student tour, Upper Murray
15 May–17 June	13799–13896	Papua New Guinea (specimens not yet databased)
5 Aug.	13905–13925	Burra – Morgan
9–13 Oct.	13935–14196	Moralana Station
1985 (37)	**14203–**	
1986 (40)	**14236–**	
1987 (1113)	**14269–**	
7–13 Jan.	14269–14296	Kangaroo Island
28 May–6 June	14352–14595	Dalhousie, Purni and other bores (botanical assistance to Geography Department, University of Adelaide party, doing pollen sampling, etc.) See Boyd (1990)
9–15 July	14599–14704	Moralana Station
5–20 Oct.	14706–14801 NPYE 1001–1627	SA NPWS Yellabinna Survey: mixed survey and DES sequential numbers. Some have been databased in the wrong sequence. See Copley & Kemper (1992) for results of this survey
1988 (46)	**14806–**	
1989 (134)	**14850–**	
8 Apr.	14854–14874	Torrens Linear Park, Adelaide
28 June–6 July	14880–14890	Qld/NSW
2–4 Nov.	14901–14971	Moralana Station
1990 (55)	14974–	
	14974–15023	Eyre Peninsula
1991 (116)	**15045–**	
22–26 July	15053–15108 BS24 52407–52484	Biological Survey 24: South Olary Plains, with D.E. Peacock. Some later DES numbers used out of sequence. See Forward & Robinson (1996) for report.
1992 (357)	**15109–**	
5– 7 June	15109–15131	Moonta area, Yorke Peninsula
26–30 Oct.	15135–15137 BS49 1874–2198	Biological Survey 49: Mid-North, with D.J. Brock
1993 (54)	**15138–**	
1994 (149)	**15156–**	
25–28 Jan.	15176–15185	Victorian Alps
24–30 Oct.	15196–15212	Eyre Peninsula
1995 (418)	**15224–**	
26 Sep.–5 Oct.	15235–15283 BS69 26853–27135	Biological Survey 69 Stony Deserts, with V.L. Lashmar. See Brandle (1998) for report

22–23 Nov.	15284–15322	Mount Gambier area
1996 (556)	**15326–**	
17–25 Sep.	BS69 29601–30018	Biological Survey 69 Stony Deserts, with R.A. Last. See Brandle (1998) for report
Nov.–Dec.	15362–15427	Mostly *Rubus* from SL and SE regions, and misc.
1997 (576)	**15428–**	
Jan.–Feb.	15428–15481	Mostly *Rubus* from SL and SE regions
5–12 Apr.	DES 15482–15649 HPV 2300– 2481	Lake Eyre region after flooding with H.P. Vonow and H. Smyth
29 Apr.–1 May	15655–15706	Coober Pedy–Oodnadatta area with Judy Symon
1–29 Dec.	15709–15764	Rosaceae, particularly *Rubus*, SA
19 Dec.	15897–15908	*Rubus* collections, Victoria, with J.R. Hosking (anomalous numbers since entered in database as 1997, rather than 1998; see below)
1998 (171)	**15768–**	
Jan. 1998	15768–15776	*Rubus* (blackberry) cultivars
28 June–5 July	15780–15804	Queensland
14–19 Dec.	15865–15908	Victoria, *Rubus*/Rosaceae with J.R. Hosking & F. Mahr
1999 (438)	**15912–**	
10–21 Jan.	15914–15966	Tasmania: mostly *Rubus* and *Cotoneaster*, with Judy Symon
5–8 Sep.	15973–16011	Eyre Peninsula, Lake Gillies, gypsum, with Judy Symon
20 Sep.	16015–16035	Cooke Plains gypsum
19–25 Oct.	BS104 1805–3722 DES 16043– 16050	Biological Survey 104: Flinders Ranges, with P.J. Lang. For report see Brandle (2001)
25 Nov.	BS117 408–460	Biological Survey 117: Southern Mt Lofty Ranges, with D.M. Armstrong. See Armstrong et al. (2003) for report
16–23 Dec.	16054–16063	Mainly *Rubus*, SA
2000 (443)	**16064–**	
28 June–1 July	16081–16244	Arckaringa–Coober Pedy, with Judy Symon
7–11 Oct.	16247 –16396	Eyre Peninsula, gypseous sites with Judy Symon
Dec. 2000– Jan. 2001	16483–16493	Mainly *Rubus*, SA, with Judy Symon
2001 (258)	**16490–**	
30 Sep.	16515–16543	Craigie Plains Gypsum Site
6 –7 Nov.	16548– 16689	Gypseous deposits, Yorke Peninsula, with Judy Symon
27 Dec.	16700–16740	Blanchetown area, with Judy Symon
2002 (358)	**16750–**	
24–27 Apr.	16785–16836	Arckaringa, Oodnadatta area, with Judy Symon
29 Sep.–10 Oct.	16850–17062	Across Nullarbor to Fraser Range, Western Australia, with Judy Symon
2003 (42)	**17076–**	Includes cultivated *Cotoneaster* specimens from Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens collected under numbers of R. Hatcher
2004 (19)	**17095–**	
18–22 May	17101–17111	Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, with Chris Martine, University of Connecticut
2005 (138)	**17118–**	
23–28 Aug.	17125–17173	Coober Pedy
15 Nov.	17180–17249	Overland Corner (MU)
2006 (70)	**17250–**	
13–19 Sep.	17254–17279	Yorke Peninsula with Millenium Seed Bank (MSB) Partnership
2007 (8)	**17290–**	
2008 (26)	**17301–**	
2009 (619)	**17315–**	
10–12 Jan	17315–17400	Stuart Hwy, observing roadside spread of *Solanum* and grasses, with Judy Symon
throughout year	CJB and Millenium Seed Bank Partnership (MSB)	Weed collections in Southern Lofty region with Chris Brodie as the main collector, David as advisor. Likewise with MSB collections. These numbers account for the most part for the number of DES collections, as they do in the following years, where again C.J. Brodie is the main collector
2010 (804)	**17443–**	
4 –7 July	17449–17459	Menindee, Broken Hill area, with Judy Symon
2011 (1028)	**17717–**	
13 Jan.	17697–17725	Adelaide Hills
12 Nov.	CJB 3701–3714	Last field work in Cleland Conservation Park with C.J. Brodie and J. & V. Timbrell

Appendix 2

Publications by D.E Symon

Publications are sorted by year and author(s), then journal or book title. Publications mentioned in the text are indicated by an asterisk.

Symon, D.E. (1940). A note on *Cypripedium fairrieanum*. *Australian Orchid Review* 5: 77.

*Symon, D.E. (1951). *The autoecology and ecotypic variability of* Medicago tribuloides *Desr.* Honours Thesis, 146 pp. (University of Adelaide, Department of Agronomy).

Symon, D.E. (1954). Hetrozygosity in subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum). Australian Journal of Agricultural Research* 5: 614–616.

*Symon, D.E. (1955). A hybrid swarm in *Cassia. Australian Journal of Botany* 3: 190–196.

Donald, C.M. & Symon. D.E. (1956). Search for new plants. *Chronicle, Stock Supplement*, Aug. 23, 1956.

*Symon, D.E. (1956). Polyembryony in *Cassia. Nature* 177: 191.

Symon, D.E. (1960). The nomenclature of cultivated plants. *Society for Growing Australian Plants Journal* 7: 10–12.

*Symon, D.E. (1961). A bibliography of subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) with a descriptive introduction. *Mimeographed publication (Commonwealth Bureau of Pastures and Field Crops)* 1/1961, 122 pp.

Symon, D.E. (1961). The species of *Oxalis* established in South Australia. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 84: 71–77.

Symon, D.E. (1961). The early production of subterranean clover seed by A.W. Howard. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 85: 19–21. http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/employment/awhoward/early_production_by_a_w_howard [accessed: 17 Sep. 2013].

Symon, D.E. (1964). Contributions to the flora of S. Australia. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 88: 5–13.

*Symon, D.E. (1965). *Cassia.* In: Eichler, H., *Supplement to J.M. Black's Flora of South Australia (second edition, 1943–1957)*, pp. 178–181. (Goernment Printer: Adelaide).

*Symon, D.E. (1966). A revision of the genus *Cassia* L. (Caesalpiniaceae) in Australia. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 90: 73–151.

Symon, D.E. (1967). The Waite Arboretum. *Australian Parks* 4: 16–21.

Symon, D.E. (1967). Androgenesis in *Brunsvigea. Euphytica* 16: 311–312

Symon, D.E. (1967). The Waite Arboretum. *Gazette (Adelaide University Graduates' Union)* 5: 11–13.

*Symon, D.E. & Kraehenbuehl, D. (1967). Vegetation. In: Bonython, C.W. & Preiss, K.A. (eds), Hambidge Wild Life Reserve: A survey by Nature Conservation Society of South Australia. *South Australian Naturalist* 42: 42–45.

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